

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-7 are presently pending, with all pending claims rejected. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 are newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0185415 to Funahashi et al. ("Funahashi") in view of U.S. Patent 5,734,132 to Proni. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a suspension holder extending downward from a middle portion between an inner periphery and an outer periphery on a rear surface of the diaphragm is integrated with the diaphragm, an entire surface of an end face of the suspension holder is directly attached to the diaphragm... (emphasis added)

This means that the suspension holder is integrated with the diaphragm such that the entire end face of the suspension holder is directly attached to the rear surface of the diaphragm. This feature is found, for example, in the originally filed application at page 4, line 18 to page 5, line 13, and Figs. 2 and 3. No new matter has been added.

Funahashi is directed to a speaker. As illustrated in Fig. 1, for example, Funahashi discloses a loudspeaker having a diaphragm 17 and a suspension holder 20. An inner peripheral part of suspension holder 20 is coupled with a voice coil member 15, and an outer peripheral part of suspension holder 20 is coupled with a frame 19. See Funahashi at paragraphs [0043]-[0044], and Fig. 1.

Proni is directed to a concentric tube suspension system for loudspeakers. As illustrated in Fig. 4, for example, Proni discloses a loudspeaker having a diaphragm 12' and a stabilizer 40. The stabilizer 40 may be attached to diaphragm 12' with an adhesive impregnated foam 50. See Proni at column 6, lines 32-35, and Fig. 4.

The Office Action acknowledges that "Funahashi does not explicitly teach an entire surface of an end face of the suspension holder is attached to the diaphragm." Applicant respectfully submits that the addition of Proni fails to make up for the deficiencies of Funahashi with respect to claim 1. As noted above, Proni discloses attaching stabilizer 40 to diaphragm 12' using impregnated foam 50. See Fig. 4 of Proni. This is different from the claimed invention because the end face of stabilizer 40 is attached to impregnated foam 50. Impregnated foam 50 is in turn attached to diaphragm 12'. Accordingly, Proni fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that the entire surface of the end face of stabilizer 40 is directly attached to diaphragm 12'.

It is because Applicant includes the feature of the entire surface of the end face of the suspension holder is directly attached to the diaphragm that the following advantages are achieved. The claimed attachment of the suspension holder to the diaphragm means that "heating and drying work of adhesive are not required, thus...enabling the productivity to be considerably improved and production equipment and space to be reduced." See the original application at page 5, lines 6-13.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Claims 2-5 include all the features of claim 1, from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-5 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In section 5, the Office Action sets forth that "Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funahashi et al. (US PGPub 2003/0185415 A1 ('415')) (already of record) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Albinger (US Patent 4,029,911 ('911')) (already of record)." Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 6, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to the allowable features of claim 1 discussed above. Specifically, claim 6 recites the step of "attaching an entire surface of an end face of the suspension holder directly to the diaphragm." The Office Action acknowledges that Albinger does not explicitly teach "attaching an entire surface of an end face of the suspension holder to the diaphragm." Although not explicitly set forth in the Office Action's statement of the rejection, the Office Action relies on Proni to make up for the acknowledged deficiencies of Funahashi and Albinger. For the reasons discussed above, Proni fails to disclose, teach, or suggest attaching the entire surface of the end face of stabilizer 40

directly to diaphragm 12'. Accordingly, claim 6 is patentable over the art of record. Claim 7 includes all of the features of claim 6, from which it depends. Thus, claim 7 is also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

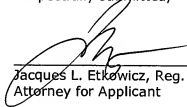
New Claims 8 and 9

New claims 8 and 9 have been added. Support for new claims 8 and 9 can be found, for example, in the original application at page 6, lines 6-7. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8 and 9 include all the features of claim 1, from which they depend. Claims 8 and 9 further include the features of "the suspension holder and the diaphragm are formed of a resin" and "the resin is polypropylene resin," respectively. It is respectfully submitted that these features are absent from the art of record. Thus, claims 8 and 9 are patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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